

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 6524

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO OVIP OTRA PORG
SUBJ: TRAVEL OF ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL TO UNITED STATES

REF: A) GENEVA 6366; B) GENEVA 5842

1. SUMMARY. ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD ARRIVES NEW YORK AUGUST 31 ON SWISSAIR 110. HE INTENDS TO SEEK APPOINTMENTS WITH AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN AND WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM IN WASHINGTON. BLANCHARD'S PURPOSE IS TO "PUT FACTS ABOUT ILO ON THE TABLE" AND TO ARGUE IN LOW KEY THAT US SHOULD (1) NOT GIVE NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO AND (2) NOT WITHHOLD ITS CONTRIBUTION TO ILO. END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONVERSATIONS THIS WEEK WITH ME AND WITH LABATT, BLANCHARD HAS EMPHASIZED THAT HE IS GOING TO NEW YORK NOT FOR SPECIAL SESSION BUT FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF USG, LABOR AND EMPLOYERS. BLANCHARD FEELS STRONGLY THAT US SIDE HAS MISJUDGED INFLUENCE OF SOVIET BLOC IN ILO AND HAS UNDERESTIMATED US INFLUENCE IN THE ORGANIZATION. PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT IS TO GET THE FACTS "ON THE TABLE" IN QUIET TALKS WITH DOL SECRETARY DUNLOP AND US REPRESENTATIVE ON GOVERNING BODY NED PERSONS, AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM, GEORGE MEANY AND CHARLES SMITH. HE HAS ALREADY ASKED FOR SOME OF THESE APPOINTMENTS (REF A) AND I HAVE ENCOURAGED HIM TO SEE MOYNIHAN AND BUFFUM. HE ALSO INDICATED--MORE OUT OF
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COURTESY THAN OUT OF REAL HOPE--THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE

SECRETARY KISSINGER; I HAVE NOT ENCOURAGED HIM IN THIS.

3. BLANCHARD FEELS US NOTICE OF INTENT IS ACT WITH MANY IMPLICATIONS AND THEREFORE NEEDS TO BE THOUGHT OUT CAREFULLY. HE SAID US NOTICE WOULD ISOLATE THE INDUSTRIALIZED MEMBER COUNTRIES OF ILO AND SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN WITHOUT CONSULTING THEM BEFOREHAND. HE ALSO FEELS IT WOULD "PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF THE ALGERIANS" AND LEAD TO RADICAL AND UNDESIRABLE PROPOSALS BY THE WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE. HE ALSO BELIEVES NOTICE BY US WOULD ENCOURAGE SOVIETS TO INCREASE THE ALREADY CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE THEY HAVE BEEN PUTTING ON HIM, PARTICULARLY FOR STAFF APPOINTMENTS. HE ASKED RHETORICALLY WHETHER USG AND AMERICAN LABOR AND EMPLOYERS REALLY WANT TO LOSE THEIR INPUT INTO ILO CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR STANDARDS.

4. ILO STAFF IS NOW DRAFTING PAPER ON FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF WITHHOLDING OF US ASSESSMENT; PAPER WILL PREPARE BLANCHARD FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH USG REPRESENTATIVES.

5. COMMENT: BLANCHARD IS VERY ANXIOUS TO STATE HIS CASE IN US. HOWEVER, IN OUR MIND THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ACTUAL WITHDRAWAL AND AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW. BLANCHARD'S ARGUMENTS AGAINST NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW REALLY REFER TO WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF US IN FACT WITHDREW FROM ILO AND THEREFORE ARE NOT PERSUASIVE TO US. IF US CLEARLY STATES ITS GOALS IN ILO, THIS US "SHOPPING LIST" IS LIKELY TO UNIFY INDUSTRIALIZED MEMBERS, PERHAPS EVEN PULL THEM ALONG WITH US. THEY MAY NOT ALL BECOME TIGERS BUT THEY WILL FIND IT MORE DIFFICULT TO BE RELUCTANT DRAGONS. WE AGREE WITH BLANCHARD THAT CONSULTATION WITH INDUSTRIALIZED MEMBERS IS DESIRABLE (PARA 4, REF B); HOWEVER HE IS TALKING ABOUT CONSULTATION BEFORE US DECISION IS FINAL AND WE HAVE BEEN ASSUMING THAT WE WOULD CONSULT THE INDUSTRIALIZED MEMBER COUNTRIES AND TAKE THEIR VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT AFTER WE REACH OUR DECISION BUT BEFORE GIVING NOTICE. IN EITHER CASE, THE US "SHOPPING LIST" WILL BE CRITICAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CONSULTATIONS AND TO OUR POSTURE IN THE ILO IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS. WE DO NOT AGREE WITH BLANCHARD'S PREDICTION FOR THE WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE. ON THE CONTRARY, THE

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TWO-YEAR TRIAL PERIOD AND A FORCEFUL STATEMENT OF US INTERESTS IN ILO, PARTICULARLY ON STANDARD SETTING AND SUPERVISION BY ILO, ARE MORE LIKELY TO TURN THE WORKING PARTY TO ISSUES POSED AND QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE US RATHER THAN TO RADICAL SOLUTIONS.DALE

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